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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/852,077

05/09/2001

Michiaki Sakamoto

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01/16/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DUNG T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 01/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/852,077

Applicant(s)
Sakamoto

Examiner
Dung Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (e). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 24, 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26 and 28-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 28-41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Jun 11, 2002 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Response to Amendment

Applicant's election dated 10/24/2002 has been received and entered. Accordingly, claims 28-41 are withdrawn from further consideration on the merits as reading on the non-elected species.

Applicant's arguments dated 06/11/2002 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as follow:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 26 and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al., US Patent No. 5,852,485, in view of Shim et al., US Patent No. 6,181,402 and Xu et al., US Patent No. 6,023,317.

Regarding the above claims , Shimada et al. disclose an in-plane switching liquid crystal display (LCD) device having:

- a pair of substrate (21, 212);
- a liquid crystal layer (217) formed therebetween;
- a thin film transistor (TFT);
- a color filter (218);

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- a common electrode (213) and a pixel electrode disposed between the color filter and the liquid crystal layer;
- an alignment layer (216).

Shimada et al. neither disclose the vertical orientation films, an insulating layer forming between the pixel electrode and the common electrode nor compensation film forming between a substrate and a polaziring film.

Shim et al. disclose a homeotropic LCD device by forming vertical alignment layers as shown in figure 3A. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the Shimada et al. device having a vertical alignment layer as shown by Shim et al. in order to obtain an LCD device having a wide viewing angle (col. 2, line 11). In addition, one skilled in the art would have realized the desire to form an interlayer between two electrodes (e.g, pixel and common electrodes) for insulating such two electrodes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to form a common electrode under an insulating layer and a pixel electrode over the insulating layer in order to avoid cross-talk between two different electrodes.

Xu et al. do disclose in figures 1-3 that an optical compensation film (e.g, positive or negative) can be disposed between a substrate and a polaziring film. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to employ the optical compensation film in the Shimada et al. device in order to improve viewing characteristics (Xu et al., abstract).

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Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0423. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 746-7730.

Any information of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DN
01/10/2003

[Signature]
DUNG H. NGUYEN
SUPERVISOR/EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2000